

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the use of a network address, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;  
acquiring the network address from the signal;  
acquiring identification data specific to a the device from the signal  
~~connected to the network;~~  
judging whether the network address corresponds to the identification data; and  
sending a message preventing the device from using a the network address ~~generated based on~~ corresponding to the identification data.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification data ~~acquired in the acquiring step~~ is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the message in the sending step indicates that the network address is duplicated.
4. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting the use of a network address, the computer-executable process steps comprising:  
receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;  
acquiring the network address from the signal;  
acquiring identification data specific to a the device from the signal

~~connected to the network;~~

judging whether the network address corresponds to the identification data; and

sending a message preventing the device from using a the network address ~~generated based on~~ corresponding to the identification data.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 4, wherein the identification data ~~acquired in the acquiring step~~ is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

6. (Original) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 4, wherein the message in the sending step indicates that the network address is duplicated.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting the use of a network address, comprising:

connection means for connecting to a network and receiving a signal from a device connected to the network;

acquisition means for acquiring the network address from the signal, and identification data specific to a the device from the signal ~~connected to the network;~~

judging means for judging whether the network address corresponds to the identification data; and

generation means for generating a message preventing the device from using a the network address ~~generated based on~~ corresponding to the identification data,

wherein the connection means sends the message to the device.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ~~generation~~ acquisition means acquires a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device as the identification data.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the connection means sends a the message indicating that the network address is duplicated for preventing the device from using the network address.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting data transfer, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;

acquiring a network address from the signal;

acquiring identifier specific to the device from the signal; ~~detecting that~~  
~~judging whether a device connected to a network sends data containing a~~ the  
network address corresponds to ~~generated based on an~~ the identifier specific to  
the device; and

~~preventing limiting transfer of the signal data from being transferred in~~  
accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier  
specific to the device.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the identifier is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein, in the ~~preventing~~ limiting step, ~~data the transfer of the signal received from a first network is prevented from being transferred to a second network~~ is limited.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting data transfer, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;

acquiring a network address from the signal;

acquiring identifier specific to the device from the signal;

~~detecting that~~ judging whether ~~a device connected to a network sends~~

~~data containing a~~ the network address corresponds to ~~generated based on an~~ the  
identifier specific to the device; and

~~preventing limiting transfer of the signal data from being transferred in~~  
accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier  
specific to the device.

14. (Original) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 13, wherein the identifier is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

15. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 13, wherein, in the ~~preventing limiting~~ step, ~~data the transfer of the signal~~ received from a first network is ~~prevented from being transferred to a second network~~ is limited.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting data transfer, comprising:

connection means for connecting to a network and receiving a signal from  
a device connected to the network;

acquisition means for acquiring the network address from the signal, and  
identifier specific to the device from the signal;

judgment means for judging whether the network address corresponds to  
the identifier specific to the device; and

~~prevention limiting~~ means for ~~limiting preventing a device connected to the~~  
~~network from transferring data~~ of the signal containing a in accordance with  
whether the network address ~~generated based on an~~ corresponds to the  
identifier specific to the device.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~prevention acquisition~~ means acquires ~~prevents data containing a network~~  
~~address generated based on~~ a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of  
the device ~~from being transferred~~ as the identifier specific to the device.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~prevention~~ limiting means limits transfer of the signal ~~prevents data received~~ from a first network ~~from being transferred~~ to a second network.